

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 now stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Jeantette *et al.* in view of Kar *et al.* and Lewis in view of over Jeantette *et al.* in view of Kar *et al.*

By this amendment, claim 5 has been amended to include the limitation of monitoring the laser interaction zone directly -without using any source of energy other than the diode laser used to heat the substrate - to generate an optical signal indicative of the physical dimension. This clearly distinguishes over Jeantette *et al.* alone and in combination as Jeantette *et al.* in all embodiments intentionally uses a separate, dedicated laser source other than the laser used to heat the substrate for the purposes of triangulation.

New independent claim 9 has been added to make it clear that the steps of generating an optical signal indicative of the physical dimension and feeding the optical signal to the laser to adjust the output of the laser may be repeated at a rate of up to 20 kHz to achieve a desired physical dimension. This also distinguishes over the cited art, which do not teach specifics with regard to update rate.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. Questions regarding this application may be directed to the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail.

Respectfully submitted,

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